

2776 Yellow Banks Rd.
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Dear Heather Brewer,

Growing up, I always seemed kinda different. I wasn't the same as everyone else. In "The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod", the main character, Vlad, was different. He was singled out, bullied, pushed and shoved: he never really fit in. He didn't really want to be like everyone else, he wanted people to care about him though, he wanted friends. Story of my life.

I began my middle school journey at 10. Problem number uno. I skipped fifth grade, so naturally I was at least one or two years younger than everybody else in my grade. I really didn't know hardly anyone.

People would say "Hey aren't you supposed to be in elementary school". Yeah, it got kinda annoying. Secondly I was taller than at least 90% of people. They already thought I was weird because I didn't dress like them. I didn't wear Hollister or Abercrombie And Fitch, I didn't follow the trends and buy what was popular. I didn't want or need that stuff and my parents couldn't afford it either. But I guess in this world if your not a follower robot and you act like yourself then to the world there is something wrong with you.

Like Vlad, I was shy. I kept to myself and found it hard to make friends. People started to find my faults: quickly. To all these people I was "that goth girl" or "emo kid". I started being bullied about it by these per say popular girls. In the books Vlad was given heck and bullied about being goth, that's not what either of us were aiming for. To add to the fact, we were both bothered for being pale.

Until I read these books, I didn't feel like I belonged or mattered. In the books and in reality the shy kid that wore dark clothes got laughed at, bullied, and not included.

At one point they were telling me "Go back to fifth grade you don't belong here". That hurt. I was the kid last picked for kick ball. I didn't feel like I could handle it. In all honesty I wanted to curl up and die. I didn't think that anyone liked me or that I had any friends.

In The Chronicles Of Vladimir Tod, I could relate to Vlad so easily. Vlad was different and people didn't want to give him a chance. We both went through being the kid that felt alone. I could feel for him and know what he was going through. Vlad was bullied but he was strong through it all. I wasn't.

Vlad found people who cared about him for who he was. It surprised me how weak I was being. Vlad was strong; I was just giving up. It made me want to try harder. Not just to give up and go cry about it.

In the series, Vlad faced a "friend" who back stabbed him. He forgave that "friend" even though he didn't ask for forgiveness. I wished I could be like that and I found it hard, but I forgave those girls that were cool with be one day and then the next talked about me. The ones that needed forgiveness I forgave.

Inside, the books made me feel warm. I learned I wasn't the only kid going through what I went through and that it was okay to be different. I cried reading these books, they made me feel so good. I think, in a sense these books were written for me.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Summer Shumate